

Applicants:  
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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: HIRA1140

### AMENDMENTS

Please enter the following rewritten claims:

- Handwritten: OIPE JC100 MAY 11 2001 PATENT & TRADEMARK*
- Handwritten: B1*
1. (Amended) A method for producing L-aspartic acid comprising:  
treating an ammonium fumarate solution with aspartase to generate an ammonium L-aspartate solution;  
heating to 50 to 130°C said ammonium L-aspartate solution;  
adding fumaric acid to said heated ammonium L-aspartate solution in a molar ratio of 0.4 to 0.8 to the total amount of fumarate and the L-aspartate contained therein to form a resultant mixture; and  
applying a shearing force to the resultant mixture to obtain a homogenous solution; and  
crystallizing L-aspartic acid from said homogenous solution to obtain a suspension containing L-aspartic acid crystals.
- Handwritten: B1*
2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of said suspension containing L-aspartic acid crystals is in the range from 25 to 100°C when the deposited L-aspartic acid is separated therefrom.
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4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein fumaric acid crystals and said ammonium L-aspartate solution are mixed continuously.
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5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said resultant mixture is cooled at a rate of 0.1 - 5°C /min from the temperature at which fumaric acid is added thereto to the temperature at which crystallized L-aspartic acid is separated therefrom, to thereby deposit L-aspartic acid.
- Handwritten: B3*
10. (Amended) A method for producing L-aspartic acid comprising:  
treating an ammonium fumarate solution with aspartase to generate an ammonium L-aspartate solution;  
adding fumaric acid to said ammonium L-aspartate solution; and  
cooling the resultant mixture at a rate of 0.1-5°C/min to crystallize L-aspartic acid.
- Handwritten: B3*
11. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said resultant mixture from which L-aspartic acid is crystallized is a homogeneous solution.